



PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: RAYMON F. THOMPSON ET
AL.

APPLICATION NO.: 09/575,551

FILED: MAY 22, 2000

FOR: SEMICONDUCTOR PROCESSING SYSTEM WITH
WAFER CONTAINER DOCKING AND LOADING
STATIONS

EXAMINER: JAMES W. KEENAN

ART UNIT: 3652

CONF. NO: 1306

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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1. Timing of Submission

This IDS is believed to be timely in that it is being submitted under 37 CFR § 1.97(b), that is (1) within three months of the filing date of the application, which is not a continued prosecution application filed under § 1.53(d); or (2) within three months of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.491; or (3) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or (4) before the mailing of a first Office action after filing a request for continued examination under § 1.114. Thus, no fee is required.

The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) may be material to the examination of this application; the Examiner is requested to make them of record in the application.

Applicant advises that Iwai, U.S. Patent No. 5,562,383 and Kawabata, U.S. Patent No. 4,744,715 were applied against similar claims in parent application Serial No. 08/885,155 (abandoned).

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

September 17, 2003
Date of Deposit

Debbie Gilbert
Debbie Gilbert

2. Cited Information

Copies of all foreign references are enclosed. In regards to the references not in English, the undersigned has enclosed an English-language abstract for the references prepared by a third party. Applicant has not verified that the third-party abstracts are an accurate representation of the teachings of the non-English reference, though, and reserves the right to demonstrate otherwise.

3. Effect of Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h))

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the cited information is, or is considered to be, material to patentability. In addition, applicant does not admit that any enclosed item of information constitutes prior art to the subject invention and specifically reserves the right to demonstrate that any such reference is not prior art.

4. Fee Payment

No fees are believed due because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office action after filing a request for continued examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Perkins Coie LLP

Date: Sept. 17, 2003

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